

# PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER



*By David Morrow*

Trails provide all kinds of benefits and many are often taken for granted. With gasoline prices likely to exceed \$3.00 or maybe even \$4.00 per gallon, trails provide people alternative transportation routes to reduce automobile use. By providing safe, pleasant places to walk and bicycle, trails encourage people to use a non-motorized means of getting to

work, school, play and shopping, which results in reduced traffic congestion, noise, air pollution and energy consumption.

Trails also provide a significant economic benefit. Trail users spend money on bicycles, snowmobiles and other durable goods and equipment related to their recreational interests, often in the areas near the trail. Local hotels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, bakeries, gas stations and other businesses also benefit from tourists spending.

Trails provide a sense of place and a source of community, the Tahoe Rim Trail being a perfect example. They are beautiful places for people to enjoy the natural beauty of an area or the state, where the trail is located. Trail corridors can become places for the community to interact and in many cases learn more about their natural and cultural environment.

Trails also provide pleasant places for people to walk, run, bicycle, ski, skate or do other exercises, all of which help control weight, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, build strength and endurance, and help prevent osteoporosis, diabetes, stress and depression. Obviously, I need to spend more time using all of the wonderful local trails.

Fortunately, there is a wonderful program we at state parks administer, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. **Cheryl Surface**, our extremely capable Trails Coordinator, administers the program for Nevada.

We are very proud of our involvement in funding design, education and actual construction of trails. Many state parks have developed trails within the park or in cooperation with surrounding communities. I encourage you to work with **Cheryl** and **Jenny** to promote trail development and, whenever possible, work with local communities who are interested in trail development.

## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

*By Allen Newberry*

It seems time moves by so fast any more that if we blink our eyes, yesterday has long past. We have been working hard to put the biennial budget together for the next round at legislature. We appreciate the many efforts by everyone to furnish additional information as requested. I am sure everyone will be happy to send the package to the budget office and then await our next round of work answering the many questions prior to making it into the governor's recommended budget for presentation to legislature.

**Dave** and I were in Panaca Region last month for a short visit and were able to visit the parks in the lower half of the Panaca Region. While there, we had the opportunity to run into one of our park visitors and a good friend of parks. We ran in to "**Cactus**" at Spring Valley and it was a good reminder of why we have worked in parks all these years. We shared a few stories about parks and about **Cactus'** life at sea, as a member of the Coast Guard. Just another great reminder of how we can each have a positive impact on the lives of others. If you run into **Cactus** in one of parks, thank him for his continued support of state parks. (For more information on Cactus, see the fall 2005 PEN.)

It has been very busy at the division and it seems we do not get out in the field as often as we would like or as often as we thought we could. We have had much discussion by phone and noted summer has been a happening place for many of you as I have noted the increased number of incident and accident reports coming across my desk. Thanks for all the many efforts by all staff statewide, we appreciate each of you dealing with the many difficult tasks, yet we understand and respect the professionalism you each provide. I know our jobs are not always the easiest, yet I hope for the most part each of us enjoy what we do and have a sense of accomplishment in the great puzzle we are constructing.



**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Con't)**

I would like to conclude with the idea that each of us needs to be happy with what we are doing. If you're not happy in what you are doing, then do something else. This doesn't mean I have always been happy about every little thing, but overall I have been happy to do all the work I have done with State Parks and with the association in parks. Parks has been an important thing for me, as I have journeyed along this path. I was always happy in the field showing people things. I was happy to meet and greet the visitors. I enjoyed the interaction with the visitors and staff and still do! The older I get, the more I understand life is too short to put up with doing things that don't "float our boats" and turn us on to the excitement of life. So in short, thanks, be happy and let's all continue to keep the light on for our visitors. Thanks for all you do.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)**

*By Steve Weaver*

The planning & development section is still in the process of undergoing a major transition, welcoming new employees. **Ned**



**Wallace** has replaced **Lisa Shettler** as our new Professional Engineer. Ned came to us from the private sector and has a wide variety of civil engineering experience already proving valuable to State Park needs. He is currently working on the North Shore Marina Dock at Lahontan, Buckland Station Day Use Development and is assisting with the Big Bend Campground/Paving/Fee Booth project plan reviews. Meanwhile, **Tom Tobacco** has taken over **Marc Lepire's** old position as a Project Manager I for Question 1 (Q1) projects. Tom came to us from the State Public Works Board. His first couple of priorities are construction management for Dangberg Ranch Building Stabilization & Restoration – Phase I and the Washoe Lake Campground Ramadas. Both projects will be under construction this fall. As time permits, he will also get the new Washoe Lake Maintenance/Storage Shed out to bid.

**Bob Martin**, Supervising Landscape Architect, has been working feverishly on getting the interpretive exhibits installed within the new Sand Harbor Tahoe Nevada Visitor Center; it's now essentially completed. Come by and see a great new addition to the park system! Later on this fall, we should see installation begin for the Visitor Center's snack bar/park store concession, which is currently in the design stage under **Marc Lepire's** tutelage. **Bob** and **Marc** are also both working together on the Buckland Station 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Interior Restoration project, which is currently under construction. At the same time, **Bob** is working with our consultants to get the Big Bend Campground, Roadway/Parking Paving and Fee Booth projects out to bid, with construction scheduled for this coming winter/spring. This fall, **Bob** will be supervising installation of new toilet buildings at Lahontan, Rye Patch, South Fork, Ft. Churchill,



Tahoe's Backcountry and Valley of Fire. And, with the water rights issues at Kershaw-Ryan finally resolved, he will be able to get started on completing the new campground construction drawings sometime this coming year.

Besides the Sand Harbor concession and Buckland Station, Project Manager, **Marc Lepire**, also has the Belmont Courthouse stabilization project under construction and is getting the Dangberg Ranch Stabilization, Restoration project ready to go out to bid. He will also be working on the Valley of Fire and Big Bend resident projects this fall/winter. As time permits, he will also be finishing the plans for the new Washoe Lake Maintenance/Storage Shed so he can turn over construction management to **Tom Tobacco**. **Marc** just finished construction of the new public restroom and site improvements at Mormon Station; looks great!



**Joe Cyphers**, Supervising Engineer IV, oversaw major progress towards completion of the Sand Point Dunes Restoration project at Sand Harbor. The project is now on hold during the Shakespeare Festival, but is scheduled to resume in September and be completed several weeks later. Meanwhile, the Sand Harbor Maintenance Facility Expansion/Renovation project is on hold pending resolution of Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) environmental issues. This project was supposed to be constructed this year, but must now be delayed until next year. **Joe** also provides engineering assistance on several other smaller projects requested by field staff. Engineering Tech, **Bob Beck**, has been assisting **Joe** on a number of these smaller projects and tackling the design layout for the proposed Mormon Station - Campbell Property Site improvements.

Meanwhile, I have taken over project management for Valley of Fire's Atlatl Rock Campground Expansion project. Construction documents are well under way and should be ready for bidding this fall, with completion scheduled for next spring. Likewise, I have been working with a consultant team to complete the phase I development plans for the new Van Sickle Bi-State Park in the Tahoe Basin. Construction is intended to start in the summer of 2007, after the next legislative session ends. Legislature will have to approve the sale of the Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) bonds funding construction of the project. The grand opening will take place in the fall of 2008 or even more likely, summer of 2009.

I am also working with our consultant team to complete the master planning process for Dangberg Ranch and just solicited proposals from prospective consultant teams for a new Beaver Dam State Park master plan. I am also serving on the technical advisory committee for the City of Las Vegas and their consultant team to develop a new master plan for Floyd Lamb State Park, which will be transferred back to the City in July, 2007.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

Meanwhile, Park & Recreation Program Manager, **Jenny Scanland** has negotiated a contract with the Las Vegas University School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Planning Research Program, to facilitate master plan revisions at

Spring Mountain Ranch, South Fork and Valley of Fire, using funds from a federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) grant. The planning process for these projects should begin early this fall (park staff will be contacted). Should the L&WCF program be funded by Congress next year, we will be amending two or more additional master plan projects to the university's scope of work. **Jenny** has also been making great headway towards completing the Dayton State Park Master Plan, with close cooperation from Lyon County, the Town of Dayton and local citizen groups. She is also making great inroads towards closing out old L&WCF grant projects and getting new ones underway, mostly political subdivision sponsored projects.

Finally, **Cheryl Surface** has been plugging away with a multitude of trails related projects and programs, in addition to administering various RecTrails program grants. The RecTrails program received over \$900,000 this year and we are anticipating an increase next year. See Cheryl's report below.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

*By Cheryl Surface*

The FY 2006 Recreational Trails Program received 21 applications this year. The Ad Hoc Nevada State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee approved 12 for funding, including two applications submitted for statewide trail maintenance in numerous Nevada State Parks. The trail maintenance projects will begin this winter and continue through the next two years.

The first ever Regional Trails Training for Nevada and Northern California took place May 12-14, 2006 at Galena Creek Park, near Reno. Training included trail layout and design; trail construction, maintenance and crew leadership and CPR/first-aid. The training was funded through a Recreational Trails Program grant. Over 110 students attended the training, from communities throughout Nevada and Northern California. Many Recreational Trails Program applicants and State Park employees were among the attendees. Next year's trails training program is currently in the planning stage. If you have suggestions for activities you would like to see presented, please contact me at 775-684-2788.



**Trail Construction Day**



**One of the trail construction groups in the field.**

NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEES

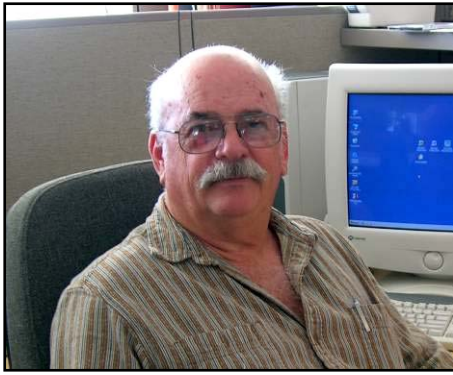
*By Alyce Cloutier*

Welcome to **Ned Wallace** and **Tom Tabacco**, recent additions to the Planning and Development (P&D) section at the division office in Carson City. If you come to the office, stop by and introduce yourself.

**Ned** replaced Lisa Schettler in June. This is **Ned's** first job with the State of Nevada. Previous jobs held were at Manhard Consulting Ltd. in Reno as a Project Manager from 11/03 – 6/06 and at V3 Consultants in Denver, Colorado from 5/02 to 10/03 as a Project Manager.



**Ned's** duties included engineering analysis, design and support for park improvements; coordinating consultant selection; oversee performance of consultant contracts and perform inspections and field reviews of park improvement projects. His current projects involved boating dock replacement, historic buildings rehabilitation and day use and camping expansions.

**NEW DIVISION EMPLOYEES**

*By Alyce Cloutier*

**Tom** is the latest addition to P&D. He started July 31<sup>st</sup>. **Tom** filled **Mark Lepire's** position as the Project Manager for Question 1 projects. **Tom** has been with the State of Nevada for 23 years; 21 years with

Nevada Department of Transportation and two years as project coordinator for State Public Works Board (SPWB).

His duties at SPWB included managing the statewide roof maintenance program and general construction projects. At NDOT he was project coordinator and managed some general construction and conducted field inspections.

**TRIVIA QUESTION**

*By Alyce Cloutier*

The answer to the Trivia Question from the PEN spring 2006 issue: The photo taken in 1974 in front of the Spring Mountain Ranch gate is **Wayne Perock**, his wife, **Donna** and son, **David**. Wayne retired as Administrator for State Parks in 2003. Wayne was the first park supervisor at Spring Mountain Ranch.

**THE PASSING OF A FELLOW PARK MEMBER**

**In Memory**  
**Gary James Downs**  
(November 20, 1932 to  
May 9, 2006)

**Gary retired as District  
Ranger  
for the Carson Region.**

**2005 PARK ACADEMY**

*By Alyce Cloutier*

This is a little late, but I didn't get the photos until now. The **4<sup>th</sup> Park Academy** kicked off January 30 - February 2, 2006 in the historic town of Ely, Nevada. There were approximately 40 attendees. The committee put together a great program and the tours were great, especially the tour of Lehman Caves at Great Basin National Park! Thank you to the committee members for their hard work in putting the academy together: **Eric Johnson**, **Terry Hansen**, **Jennifer Finlen**, **Andrew Bass**, **Stacey Patane**, **Kim Lee**, **Dale Conner** (photographer), **Barbara Rohde** (who did the Park Academy Newsletter to keep attendees informed of the news going on), to the Nevada State Parks Cooperation Association (NSPCA), who donated the shirts and the **Hotel Nevada** for their accommodations. We also need to thank all the guest

speakers and those who gave the tours. They did a fantastic job. Here are just a few photos taken:



**The committee members working hard?**  
(Left to right: **Stacey Paten**, **Eric Johnson**, **Barbara Rhode**, **Jennifer Finlen** and **Andrew Bass**)



**Kim Lee and Terry Hansen, "What can they be thinking?"**

**Photos of the attendees touring Cave Lake.**



**2005 PARK ACADEMY (con't)**

Attendees had the opportunity to walk on the frozen lake and view the ice sculptors leftover from the White Pine – Fire & Ice show.



It was a bit cold as you can see from one attendee!



Most of the items raffled off were painted by Park Interpreter, Barbara Rohde. Here she shows a clip board that was raffled off.



Mike Ray gave a tour and brief history at Ward Charcoal Ovens.

## CARSON REGION

**DAYTON STATE PARK**

*By Domenic Bravo*

After a few delays, we were able to get the campground open in June. We have had other problems (water) that may be a curse carried over from Washoe©. **Matt Huber** did a great job for us this year; he kept the park functioning during the first summer Washoe took over management.

Congratulations to **Matt**, as he will be the new park ranger at Fort Churchill. We wish him the best.

Dayton is currently undergoing master plan revisions. It has been a fun and exciting process and will be very beneficial. Soon we may have plans for new trails, trailheads, campgrounds, amphitheaters, etc.

**WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK**

*By Domenic Bravo*

We have had a fun and crazy summer. This is the first time in six years Washoe Lake has had water. We have had a decent amount of boating on the lake. With our previous interpretive programs, improved facilities and the increased boating, we have had a busy summer. The heat for a couple of weeks, daytime temperatures were in the 100's, put a slight damper on visitation, but overall it has been a fun and eventful summer.

As a side note, we had a fire caused by fireworks on August 5. Park Aid, **Paula Ault**, and Maintenance Repair Specialist, **Jeff Jones**, deserve special thanks for their 'above and beyond' performance that kept the fire from growing and led to the finding of the suspects. These employees showed great bravery and pride in their work here at Washoe Lake and should be commended. Special thanks to **Jim Black** and **Terri Ozawa** who also responded to the fire and made everything flow smoothly. It went so well that the fire was out before the fire trucks arrived.

**LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK**

*By Dale Conner*

Summer is in full swing here at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Visitation is up over last year, water levels at the lake are high and our seasonal staff is humming along in mid-season form.

**Harbor House** opened their concession at the beginning of summer, operating out of a temporary trailer with the permanent building still under construction. They sell everything from gourmet salmon wraps and Corona to beach balls and sunscreen. The staff's favorite seems to be the teriyaki burger. The park and visitors alike have definitely benefited from the great service provided by **Harbor House**.



The **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** kicked off their season with a rousing performance by the Reno Philharmonic on July 10. On July 13, Shakespeare performances started going seven days a week with showings of *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. Reviews have been great, especially for *Complete Works*, which packs the theatre with 1,200 visitors each performance. The free Young Shakespeare performances were a blast for the kids and maybe even more so for the parents!

**LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK (con't)**

Sand Harbor made national news with the story of at least three different bears making almost daily/nightly appearances since late June. The bears have knocked over dumpsters, played on Jay Howard's office computer and feasted on the Shakespeare vendor's ice cream (Cherry Garcia was a popular choice, but not vanilla!). In fact, these bears have raided every possible food source with the exception of what has been left in the bear traps, of course!

In addition to our regular entertainment schedule, Tahoe also hosted a few other events, such as Star Parties at Spooner and Sand Harbor, an Ironman race at Spooner/Backcountry, and several junior lifeguard programs.

The Sand Harbor Tahoe Nevada Visitor Center and park store opened on August 5. It is a beautiful building and we received many compliments from our visitors already. We would like to thank **Bob Martin** and **P&D** for all of their hard work and persistence in pushing this project forward! We also really appreciate all of the help and support from **Ginny Selwood** and the rest of the **NSPCA** board!

The **Tahoe Summit** was held at Sand Harbor on August 10. Park, region and division staff welcomed such dignitaries as **Governor Guinn** and **Senators Ensign** and **Reid**. **Senator Reid** was particularly impressed with our visitor center and even held an impromptu press conference there.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned **Geoff Hall** had retired after many years as the Facility Supervisor. **Joe Fontaine**, our Wastewater Treatment Plant Specialist and affectionately known as "Sewer Drain," was promoted to fill Geoff's position and has done a great job filling those big shoes. He is well respected among the park staff for his knowledge, hard work and willingness to pitch in wherever needed. **Mike Shipman**, head of beach patrol and a 17-year park employee, was promoted to fill Joe's position, which was changed to a Maint. Repair Specialist. It's going to be strange to see Mike in the winter and stranger yet to see him wearing shoes! Brad Kosch retired on July 7 – we're told that someone else is writing about him, but we wanted to say we miss him and his leadership already! Good luck to him in his future endeavors. (You can read more about Brad on the last page.)

**FALLON REGION**

**RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA**

*(This was a last minute entry.)* Wedding bells were heard at The Patch as Jim Hawkins finally got married on August 5. We happily welcome his wife into the Parks' family.

**BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK**

*By Mike Dinquer*

This year **Jeff Morris** took part in NDOW's Free Fishing Day. **Jeff** caught these two trout in his favorite fishing hole, the sitz bath located in the living room of the cabin behind Jeff.

**LAHONTAN STATE RECREATION AREA**

*By Jim Sizemore*

Well, by the time this comes out, the season will be almost over and only one word can sum it all up, WOW!!! This area continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the state and the numbers are starting to show it.

With extremely high water levels and no beach space for most of the season, it has been very challenging for the visitors, as well as, the entire staff. Myself, as well as, **Mike Cavanaugh** would like to send "Kudos" to all of our seasonal staff. Everyone has gone above and beyond what was expected of them, especially the Silver Springs staff who has finally quit swimming in the mountains of trash. We have survived algae blooms, windstorms, extreme heat and numerous other factors. Plus, let us not forget, the wonderful media who in turn prompted several hundred phone calls. People wondered if we were closing the lake. Why didn't I think of that?

All I can say is, I am glad I am not a L.E. Ranger, if what you look like after 20 hours of working, no food, no sleep and dealing with drunks most of the night. No thanks. I will stick with my Park Tech. job.

You know it's late when...

...During your 16<sup>th</sup> hour, the hypothermic drunk you arrested is sound asleep handcuffed to the hospital bed and you need to stay awake to "guard" him;

...The fee booth calls that south of the boat ramp there's an ATV driving drunk with a black dog (the dog was taken into custody without incident);

Or...At night I hear on the radio, "Someone just switched the Beach 8 and Beach 6 signs, I swear, why would someone do that? Oh! Never mind, I was driving the wrong way. I'm at Beach 10 now and it's still all clear."

Maybe tomorrow we'll sleep. Last, but not forgotten, is the **Fallon Region Office** and **Maintenance Staff** who thru some miracle were able to find money to keep us above water, so to speak, and find enough band aids and tourniquets to keep us driving. For those of you who don't know, we have the best staff, lake and region in the state.

**FALLON REGION (Con't)****SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA***By Jim Wilkinson*

We've had a good year so far. Our visitation is up. The Division of Water Resources has maintained South Fork Reservoir at full capacity.

We need to thank our seasonal employees who continually strive to keep our park as clean as possible. Without them, we would be in big trouble. We have a jack-of-all-trades in **Joe Hawkins**. We also have **Josh Robbins** and **Charity Balding**. Thanks for all of your hard work!

With some great work from **Mark Bivens** and **Joe Hawkins**, we have installed an actual beach area with some real sand. It would be nice to haul in some Lahontan quality sand, but we are happy to suffice with surplus NDOT sand. In the future, if we can get a couple of shade structures and install a CXT restroom in the general area, we will be in good shape.



**Mark** has really done a good job in keeping our non-paved roads in good condition. The road grader was an excellent purchase. The sharing arrangement with Cave Lake is not ideal, but has worked out. In the past, it was impossible to keep our roads maintained. The previous poor condition of our non-paved roads generated numerous complaints from our visitors. It's nice to actually hear compliments from our visitors. In my opinion, we need to work on keeping up our improvements with installing type two road base. If we can do this, we can make our roads usable for a majority of the year. If you've ever had the opportunity to go down a wet, clay based road, you will know what I am talking about. Hope all is well and enjoy the rest of summer.

**WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA***By Andrew Bass*

Park visitors always want more trees and this summer they got their wish. A big thanks goes to **Eric Johnson** and **Pat Marker** for their help with installing a tree irrigation system. This allowed us the ability to plant more trees in every campsite. The old watering system (five gallon buckets) had staff working at its limit. Thirty more trees have been planted so far, with annual additions planned. We've also been able to

put new tops on several picnic tables. The park is really looking nice.

All park staff has had the opportunity to enlighten visitors with the park's Saturday programs. **Christopher Johnson** went high tech and gave a nice power point presentation on local birds of prey. **Whitney Herrera** showed how the power of the sun can cook your food. Solar smores from a pizza box taste just as good as campfire smores!



I'm always on the lookout for historical items that will add to the cowboy/buckaroo theme at the visitor center. Recently the park acquired almost everything needed to set up a working blacksmith shop. This will add great insight to a cowboy's needs for shod horses and mending of broken hardware.

The Wild Horse area has always been a wonderful place to visit. The park is now becoming excellent, not only for camping, but to just stop in and enjoy. Come on up and check it out for yourselves.

**PANACA REGION****PANACA REGION HEADQUARTERS***By Kim Lee*

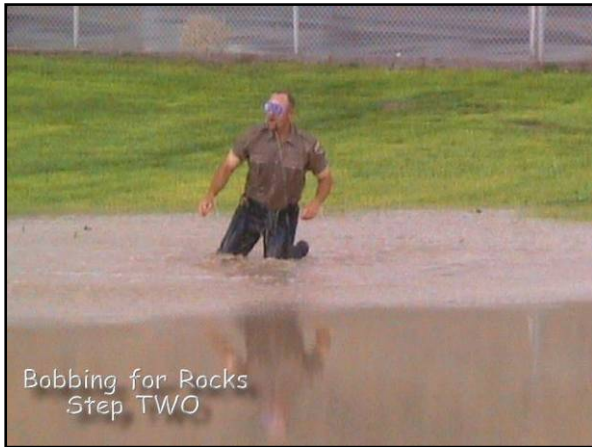
In addition to all the regular duties and requirements we are involved with, we have been developing

new activities for the thirty minute personal fitness program recently adopted by the park system. Through extensive terrain re-configuration and innovative preparation, **Cody** and **Nevin** were able to test a few of the new proposed extreme water activities during the last big rain.

## PANACA REGION

Bobbing for Rocks  
Step ONE

**Cody** developed and introduced the toughest activity he calls "Bobbing for Rocks." To participate one must first jump into the air and then fall face first into the muddy water with your mouth open . . . .

Bobbing for Rocks  
Step TWO

The object is to come back up with a mouth full of muddy rocks. As you can see in the picture, he will be a tough opponent if you're interested in this one.



Floatless Fishing

**Nevin** was just as adventurous with her entry in which you must sit in a child's float tube and hook the Lagoon monster with a small fishing



pole and pull him in. The only problem is, she was successful on the first attempt, but has not been seen since.

The most physical demanding activity introduced was **Cody's** Float-less Fishing. You must sit on the water with NO TUBE; you stay afloat by wiggling your hind end enough to keep your body out of the water while fishing. He looks tough to beat at this, but welcomes any competition.

### CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK

*By Barbara Rohde*

Greetings from the land of fires. Our skies have been smoky a lot this summer, with lightning strikes causing many small and a few major fires in southern Nevada. One fire even had the access road to Beaver Dam closed for a day or two, although the park itself was never threatened by the flames. The closure made the Las Vegas papers and caused concern for the Baptist Church group that planned a 5-day campout in the park.

Park Ranger Technician, **Steven Davy**, has had an exciting first season at the park; he has been leading hikes on the Beaver Dam Wash trail improved by **Jack Martindale's** crew from the Caliente Youth Center. **Barbara Rohde** went out on July 1 to lead a hike and was very impressed with how beautiful the park is, even without a lake!

**Cody** has been spending time between Cathedral Gorge and Beaver Dam, since he is supervising both parks this summer. Some days he doesn't know whether he is coming or going. We need to find him one of those hats with two brims!

**Nevin Birkmier** is with us for her fifth season and she has been ably assisted by **Christopher Lee** from Panaca and returning Camp Host, **Marvin Haglund**. Although camping has been slow, there are nights we wouldn't have had even one camper had **Marvin** not been here to give the incoming campers a feeling of welcome and security.

**Barbara's** programs have included two new ones on power point: "Pioneer Days, Pioneer Ways" (on the skills used by the pioneers when they settled the West) and "Summer Survival." She is also working on two other new ones as mentioned in the last P.E.N. The only down-side to doing power point programs at the outdoor amphitheater in the campground is we have had a lot of lightning and thunderstorm activity this summer. It is not the best time to be running a computer outdoors! The **Las Vegas Astronomical Society** came in May to try a spring star-gazing program; unfortunately, they had one wonderful night and the night for public viewing was overcast.

## CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK, VISITOR CENTER & BEAVER DAM STATE PARK (con't)

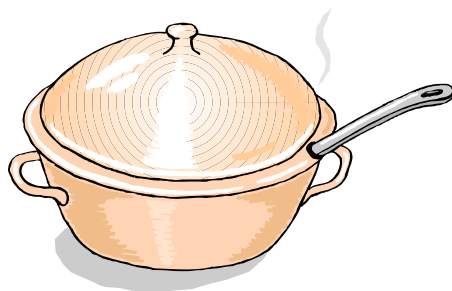


### **National Trails Day hike, Condor Canyon 6/3/06**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Barbara** and **Andrew Porter** (Spring Valley) participated in the **National Trails Day** hike through Condor Canyon (due east of Cathedral Gorge). Both of us are members of the Lincoln County Trails Coalition, which sponsors this event. The event offers activities for motorized and non-motorized trails-users, utilizing appropriate trails for each. There was even an equestrian trail ride, whose participation doubled over last year's trail ride. On Saturday night, there is a Dutch Oven dinner for all participants and it was held this year at Kershaw-Ryan State Park. A big thanks goes to **Kim Lee**, who served as transportation director, taking people from the park entrance gate to the picnic area in his big yellow bus. Thanks also to **Phares, Shaylen** and **crew**—the Trails Day participants were very impressed with Kershaw-Ryan and they anxiously await the day when the campground is finally built and ready to use. National Trails Day 2007 will again take place in Caliente and the hiking portion will return to Spring Valley's Stone Cabin Trail.

We had another great flint-knapping demonstration by **Tom DeVuono** in the middle of June and he again gave an arrowhead to each attendee. This just thrilled the international participants in the Trek America tour camping in the adjacent group campsite. However, the youngest participant, five-year-old **Jordan Pavis** from Panaca, got the biggest thrill when **Tom** gave him the large point he had steadily been working on during the demonstration.

The **Second Annual Dutch Oven Cook-off** will be held Saturday, September 9; we decided to try it at a cooler time of year – at least, we HOPE September will be cooler. If you have a chance, come join us – either as a cook, or as a “judge” (again, the participants will judge the different dishes to choose winning recipes). We look forward to the fall and hope you've all had a good summer.



**Barbara Rohde pointing out the dam at Beaver Dam State Park, 7/1/06**

## CAVE LAKE STATE PARK

*By Steve Gray*

All is well at Cave Lake State Park. The entire park just got a thick layer of asphalt. This was long overdue and the end result is beautiful. Special thanks to **Terry Ivins** for ensuring the job was done right. All of our day-use areas, fish cleaning station, fee stations and, best of all, my driveway got done. We still are continuing on the shop renovation. It looks great and we hope to have it done in the next two months.

Once again it has been another interesting summer up here on the mountain. **Tracey Doutre** and **Dessa Stroud** are the returning seasonals this year and, as always, are doing an excellent job. This summer we were able to accomplish some great things here in the park. It is nice to see all the planning, grants and budget cycles come together to create a better park. It is very important, as a steward to the land, that we create an atmosphere for tomorrow through constant planning and development of resources. There is money out there to do many things to benefit our parks.

Hunting season is just around the corner, which means winter will be here fast. I better go get some more firewood. If you are in the neighborhood, make sure you stop by and see our improvements and I bet you will want to pay \$4.00 just to enter!!!

## SPRING VALLEY STATE PARKS

*By Erin Neat*

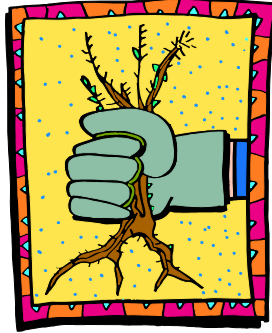
A camper by definition is one who comes to camp. Ask any park aid or ranger and they will probably rattle off a slightly more detailed description. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on who you ask, Spring Valley State Park has not been endowed this summer with as many campers as she has in the past. Is this lack of camp fire enthusiasm and temporary tent lodging due to weeds, weather, or way too high gas prices? I am just as stumped as you. One thing is certain, campers or none, Spring Valley and her veteran crew are in this summer slump together, enjoying the peaceful prowess of nature.

## PANACA REGION (Con't)

### SPRING VALLEY STATE PARKS (Con't)

Despite the sparse traffic coming in and out, we have enjoyed seeing some old friends, wondering about those who haven't yet visited and making new acquaintances who don't hesitate to barter favor for favor. What's new?

The weather has been moist and weeds are on the rise. We can hardly keep up. Luckily **Andrew Porter** and **Corry McBride** have developed super hero skills in the weed eating department and **Erin Neat** and **Trisha Tibbitts** have become good friends with the hula hoe. We fight the good fight weekly, but those weeds tend to win. Our park is green, however, our campers don't know weeds from rabbit brush. Emerson wrote "Nature never wears a mean appearance." Ask the old fisherman sitting on the dock or under a tree at the hem of morning what he thinks about our park. He will probably smile and nod an approving nod as he reflects on our family of Canadian Geese living on the lake, the mother deer and her baby nibbling fresh leaves, and bumble bees and sunflowers keeping him company while he waits for a fish. What weeds...?



We are constantly involved in small projects and succeed at staying busy. With or without weekly projects there is always something to do. The perks of being a Spring Valley park aid include: comet stained pants freckled with white, paint prints on your knees and shirt sleeves, an occasional battle with a hornet's nest, hungry deer fly and the encounter of something smelly hidden in the shower drain or dumpster. It's a dangerous life we live...but someone's got to do it.

As August approaches our crew will slowly but surely get smaller. **Trisha's** been away on one grand adventure and will rejoin us shortly. With her return comes the departure of **Erin** and the crew quickly drops off one by one leaving **Andrew**, **Pete Gill**, and **Lee Hiatt** to fend for themselves. As the days get shorter so does the crew. Until then, we will come to work with sleep in our eyes and tools in our hands, anxious to scrub, rake, shovel, dig, and paint. We'll leave with dirt on our jeans and a smile on our teeth knowing we are definitely having a true and amazing time here at Spring Valley State Park.

### WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE PARK

*By Mike Ray*

As I progress in my career as a Nevada State Park Ranger, I continue to develop a greater appreciation for what a wonderful thing "rangering" is. We all have our ups and downs, our conflicts with coworker or supervisors and our headaches with paper work, but it is all out weighed by the job we get to do outdoors, in some of the most beautiful places in the State. We (the field staff) get to work where thousands come to play. So when you get to feeling down or start to feel

over burdened, just stop, quit taking yourself quite so seriously and think back to what made you want to be a ranger in the first place. I bet you find the things you dreamt about while you were in school are all around you. Things really are great for a Nevada State Park Ranger.

The summer of 2006 has been cool and wet here in White Pine County. This makes for some great lightning shows, but has been hard on my camping numbers. If you ever have someone ask for a nice quiet place to camp, point him or her in Ward's direction. There is always an open spot and the ranger (me) is always happy to have someone in his campground!!! They could even stay in a Yurt, if they would like!

If you didn't already know, Ward is home to a Yurt. The Yurt is located along a multi-use trail and is accessible by ATV, mountain bike, horse or foot. They could even fly in, if they flap their arms fast enough. If you walk, it is about 1.5 miles from the trailhead. The Yurt gets very little use, so I am asking for your help in promoting it. If you get the chance tell your visitors about the Yurt and let them know the friendly rangers in Eastern Nevada would love to have them stay in it!



In other news, although Jake the Duck is gone, (may he rest in peace) the pond at the Ward residence is now home to several new ducks. They are all Blue Swedish ducks just like Jake. They were brought in for algae control and they are doing an excellent job! The pond is clean and clear and a great place to cool off after a hot day. However, those hot days are few and far between here in the Eagan Mountains.

As a Park Ranger at a historical park, I get the opportunity to conduct interpretive programs for the public. 2006 has been a very successful season as far as interpretation goes. I had the chance to explain a little of Nevada's history to hundreds of men, women and children from all over the country and around the world. One of the interesting things about the charcoal ovens is that they were only used to make charcoal for approximately three years. It just amazes me that structures built with such care and craftsmanship and only utilized for such a short period of time. Hopefully with a little TLC they will stand for another 130 years, for future generations to enjoy.

Until next time, keep your chin up and your powder dry. And remember; no matter what the historical revisionists try to tell you, Han Solo shot first. *(The Editor wholeheartedly agrees!)*

## LAS VEGAS REGION

### BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO STATE REC AREA

*By Keith Walsh*



Aloha from Big Bend. We've just been hanging out with some of the Hawaiian Tropic girls and our summer is going great! But seriously the new ski lifts are about to open when temperatures get back to 110° and we can't wait! Inebriated visitors beware, my identical twin brother, **Joe** and I are the newest members to the wonderful staff here at Big Bend, including **Brian**, **Allen** and an outstanding volunteer affectionately nicknamed, **Blue**.

The park is a wonderful place for the nature enthusiast observing the local ecology or for the weekend warrior looking to have a little watercraft fun. If all goes well, the park will be expanding with some new campgrounds and RV hookups, as well as, a much needed air-conditioned fee booth over the winter. We've stayed busy with the summer rush to the river and we're looking forward to the wrath of Labor Day.

There's a fair share of wildlife that frequent the park, including coyotes, snakes, lizards and families of quail, all of which are named Rex to minimize confusion. Every day brings an exciting new adventure for visitors and staff alike. With wave runners sinking, boats slipping off trailers, the beautiful lightning shows of monsoon season and the umbrella graveyard their winds leave behind, there's always a show. It's never boring for a minute and we can't stop coming back for more. We hope everyone's having a great summer, ours has been a blast!

### VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

*By Paul Michalec*

Hello from Valley of Fire! This past summer has been quite warm with occasional showers and even some flooding. The flooding caused sections of the roads to be covered with sand and debris, as well as, short periods of humidity. Some of this rain almost caused us to get out our canoes out and paddle home.

Park Supervisor, **Jim Hammons**, has been very busy working on countless film negotiations, budget proposals, keeping track of the Logandale trails, new campground planning, new amphitheatre planning and other interesting park improvements.

Park Ranger III, **Jennifer Finlen**, has also been very busy this summer keeping the park as safe and smooth running as possible while being short handed. Jennifer has been in meetings for NSPCA and is working with me on getting approval for new taxidermy mounts for the visitor center. The new animals up for approval are a Desert Big Horn Sheep, a Yellow Gopher Snake and a Long-eared Owl.

We had to say goodbye to one of our rangers, **Russell Nutt**. **Russell** transferred to Floyd Lamb State Park on July 15<sup>th</sup> and on July 9<sup>th</sup> we gave him a going away party. For the short time **Russell** was here, he made sure visitors enjoyed themselves whether it was camping, hiking or just here for a day visit.

Maintenance repair specialists, **Weston Shakespeare** and **Jim Shields**, have also been very busy with boy scouts on park improvement projects, water leaks and truck repairs. One such project has been the new parking spaces and black top at the fee booth. It really looks great guys.

Valley of Fire has one new employee Park Aide, **Bonnie Scacco**. Bonnie started in July due to a shortage in seasonal staff. Welcome to Valley of Fire **Bonnie**!

NSPCA staff has two new employees. **Nicole Stapledon** and **Karin Memmott**. **Nicole** moved to Nevada one year ago from Southern California and started NSPCA this past April. **Karin** lives locally in Overton and previously lived in Colorado after moving here from Germany in the sixties. She has helped us out a lot at the counter. **Jessie Davie** is still here working for NSPCA and has been keeping busy selling lots of souvenirs and providing park information to all our visitors.

Well gotta run, some one is frying eggs in the parking lot.

### STATE PARKS' VISITOR SURVEY REPORT

#### CARD - PART I *By Joy Elwood*

How were we graded by visitors last year? What does the data tell us? Here are the results: out of 16,973 surveys sent out to the parks in 2005, we received 1,095 surveys, which is a .2% decrease over the year 2004.



The following is the overall rating for all state parks:

		<u>Increase or Decrease over 2004</u>
Excellent	73.2%	.1% Decrease
Good	19.8%	1.5% Decrease
Average	4.4%	.8% Increase
Poor	1.5%	.3% Increase
Unacceptable	1.2%	.6% Increase

### THE REGIONAL SCORES

The following is the ranking of the regions based on the **highest** amount of **Excellence**:

Panaca Region  
Carson Region  
Las Vegas Region  
Fallon Region

The following is the ranking of the regions based on the **lowest** amount of **below average** ratings:

Panaca Region  
Carson Region  
Las Vegas Region  
Fallon Region

**“People will forget what you said and forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”**

## PERSONNEL

*By Anke Simpson*

This has been a very busy summer. We hired about 90 seasonal employees, and we also have several recruitments for permanent positions posted at this time. Ranger interviews were held at the end of July in Carson City and we are hoping to have our non-commissioned ranger position at Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort and all four commissioned ranger positions at Valley of Fire, Fort Churchill and Lahontan filled within the next few weeks.

Here are some of our more recent changes among our permanent employees:

### NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

P&D at the division office has two new employees. **Ned Wallace** started as the Professional Engineer on 6/5/06. **Tom Tabacco** transferred into the Project Manager I position on 7/31/06 from the State Public Works Board.

Jim Hammons will be much relieved to have **Brad Larkin** and **Kevin Hay** as new rangers for Valley of Fire, no starting dates set yet. And Rob Holley will get additional help from **Myron Jeffs** as his newest ranger, again no start date set yet. **Matthew Huber** will be transferring from his seasonal position at Dayton to Greg Meis' former Commissioned Park Ranger position at Ft. Churchill on 8/24/06.

## PROMOTIONS

**Jeff Jones** was promoted from seasonal Park Ranger Technician I at Washoe Lake to Maintenance Repair Specialist II on 4/24/06. **Tim Palmer** promoted from Park Aid I at Spring Mountain Ranch to Maintenance Repair Specialist II on 5/8/06. **Mike Shipman** received a promotion from his Lifeguard II position at Lake Tahoe to Maintenance Repair Specialist II on 8/14/06.

## TRANSFERS

**Tim Gause** transferred laterally from his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Floyd Lamb to Spring Mountain Ranch on 5/22/06. **Russell Nut** also transferred laterally from his commissioned Park Ranger I position at Valley of Fire to Floyd Lamb.

## GOOD BYES

**Greg Meis** left his commissioned Park Ranger II position at Fort Churchill and moved back to Washington State. **Brad Kosch** retired on 7/7/06

from his Regional Manager position for the Carson Region with over 20 years of service with Nevada State Parks. Brad is interested in sharing his knowledge, wisdom and interest in the form of writing. Good luck to both of them.



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